

As the man in charge of the physical plant of the Worcester Public Schools, Dick Bedard has done an extraordinary job of keeping our schools safe, clean and conducive to learning. He was in the lead as Worcester opened 5 new schools; 3 more are on the way.

Through all of this, Dick Bedard has approached his responsibilities with good humor, hard work and dedication. He is widely respected in the city of Worcester as a man who gets the job done. And although we will miss him and his expertise, it is only fair to finally share him with his wife Joan, their four children and their five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know this entire House joins me in congratulating Dick Bedard for a job very well done, and expressing our best wishes for a healthy, productive and very well-earned retirement.

A FRIENDLY WAGER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two great college basketball teams that met in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament. In a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee last month, Rep. BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina and I entered into a friendly wager on whether Michigan State University or Duke University would win their semifinal match up.

The wager called for the loser to furnish each member of the Agriculture Committee with a wholesome food product from his state. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that Michigan State University's great basketball team, the Big 10 champion, riding a record win streak, lost an exciting and close game to Duke University.

Mr. Speaker, to pay off this wager, I want to officially announce that I am furnishing each member of the Agriculture Committee with a bag of Michigan navy beans and I would like to note that Michigan is one of the top navy bean producers in the world. In addition, I'm furnishing each member with a box of Kellogg's new Smart Start cereal. Kellogg, which is based in Battle Creek, MI, is one of the world's top breakfast cereal producers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fine example of effort and determination of all the players in the NCAA tournament.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S CHAMPION
MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL DE-
CATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon as the U.S. National Decathlon Champions.

This is the first time a team from Ventura County, California, has won this premiere

scholastic contest. In fact, it's the first time a team from Ventura County has competed in the nationals. Team members Arturo Barragan, Alexandria Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their county and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For months, these teen-agers studied at school until 10 p.m., then hit a coffee shop or a student's home to study some more. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs and time with their families.

Their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistance coach Michelle Bergman, did the same. Larry Jones has said he will retire. Not everyone believes him. But, at a minimum, he and Michelle have earned some relaxation in the glow of a job well done. We wish both of them the best in whatever their futures bring.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to compete in the Ventura County Academic Decathlon on February 6. Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second. The A Team then competed against the best in California on March 12, coming away with the state title, and opening the way for their national title this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, one of the team members, Ari Shaw, served as an intern in my office last year. He brought the knowledge gained inside the halls of Congress to the contest by giving a speech on his experiences here, a speech that won him several accolades. It should please my colleagues to know that our young people leave Capitol Hill with positive memories.

As we get ready to approve the Education Flexibility bill this week and consider other education measures this year, let us keep in mind the members of the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon team and all the worthy competitors they faced from schools across our great nation. These are the real people behind our efforts to improve our schools. They are representative of those striving to get the best education they can, to be the best they can. It is incumbent upon us to keep them to reach their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding eight such real people who achieved a very prestigious goal—Arturo Barragan, Alexandra Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba—the U.S. champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

“EXTRAORDINARILY EWING” OF-
FERS VALUABLE LESSON IN
CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable example of community service and civic responsibility that is occurring in my Congressional District in central New Jersey.

Two years ago, alarmed at low voter turnout, local parent Candace Mueller, of Ewing,

New Jersey, formed “Extraordinarily Ewing” a group of PTA members, parents, business people and taxpayers committed to getting the word out about the importance of participating in school board elections and being involved in local education issues.

This community-based effort to educate citizens about the importance and responsibility of voting, and in taking part in other matters relating to local elections, has been a remarkable success. Since the program was started, voting turnout has increased and residents have taken more interest in issues like the local school budget. The effect of this involvement has been contagious, leading to a more informed, more involved citizenry, regardless of their position on the issues.

At the urging of the citizens of “Extraordinarily Ewing,” today in Ewing has been designated “Take Your Child to Vote Day.” The campaign, which urges parents and guardians to take twenty minutes out of their busy schedules to go to the polls with their children to vote is an important lesson in civic responsibility. By seeing their parents voting, young people understand very clearly the importance of being involved in their community and its decisions.

The efforts of “Extraordinarily Ewing” have been recognized by Ewing Mayor Al Bridges, the Town Council and by County Executive, Robert Prunetti. “Extraordinarily Ewing's” efforts have also been spotlighted by the *Ewing Weekly Times* and *The Trenton Times*.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when voter participation and involvement is on the wane, the efforts of “Extraordinarily Ewing” are a refreshing reminder of the importance of being involved. The efforts of these parents and business people offer a valuable lesson in civic responsibility for all of us.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing this group and these efforts.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION BEN-
EFIT FOR ALL SENIORS IS UR-
GENTLY NEEDED; GOOD HEALTH
CARE REQUIRES ACCESS TO
PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, JOHN DINGELL, myself and others are introducing the Access to Rx Medications in Medicare Act of 1999. Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-Mass.) and JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-W. Va.) are introducing the bill in the Senate. It provides a basic, affordable Part B benefit of \$1,700 per year that will cover 80% of pharmaceutical costs for all seniors and eligible disabled individuals with more than \$200 in annual drug costs. The bill also helps all Medicare beneficiaries by covering 100% of their costs above \$3,000 in annual out-of-pocket prescription drug expenditures.

The benefit is to be administered by private-sector entities such as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), insurers, or networks or wholesale and retail pharmacies, which would competitively bid for Medicare's business. Entities